

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**On behalf of the team for EU integration within the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister, I would like to greet all the participants of this Seminar and express my pleasure that such a gathering is taking place in Serbia.**

**Personally, I am especially thrilled with the topic of the Seminar. We always support everything that can contribute to the economic development of local communities and regions in general.**

**The products with certified geographical origin can be classified under exceptional production segments from this region that can have competitive advantages on developed markets.**

**Regardless the current difficulties that the world economy is going through, we have to do our utmost to enable friendly environment for the implementation of the GIs system, meaning: to adopt all necessary laws and by-laws, as well as, to strengthen respective administrative capacities.**

**Countries like Serbia, but also other countries from this region, have to think how to promote the value of authentic products and in thus support local companies and entrepreneurship. This will add value to the traditional products but also facilitate penetration on developed markets as something new, traditional, produced according to the standards of very demanding consumers.**

**This event has gathered people from this region who works on the GIs issues. Participants are mostly people from related institutions. From my point of view this is of paramount importance, because good communication among relevant stakeholders is essential for economic development of the region in general.**

**Taking in consideration that strategic goal of our Government is complete and full integration into European Community, and that the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Djelic has a mandate to foster and facilitate those processes, I have to**

mention that we do hope to obtain candidate member state status as soon as possible, which will enable further developments also in the sector that is on agenda of today's meeting.

As far as Serbia is concerned, let me assure you that we will do our maximum to promote this issue and that GIs will get its place in future action plan of the Serbian Government. Especially Ministry of Science and Technological Development and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management..

We think that one of our future assignments should definitely be improvement of inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation in order to achieve simple and efficient administrative procedures in processes of registration and certification of GIs goods. At the later stage support in promotion of these products will follow.

Since this is a technical seminar I would like to give flour to experts from this area. But please, allow me to great you once again, to welcome you to Serbia and express my wish that this seminar represents only the beginning of our future fruitful cooperation.